



Gulf of Maine Rivers Ecosystem Team

Purpose

The Gulf of Maine Rivers Ecosystem Team represents a diverse cross-section of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Project Leaders and regional geographic land managers responsible for field operations in the Gulf of Maine watershed. Ecoteam meetings provide an opportunity to learn what other branches of the Service "do for a living" and to learn more about the important fish and wildlife resource issues throughout the watershed. The Gulf of Maine Rivers Ecoteam is dedicated to working with a wide array of state, Native American, and NGO partners to conserve, manage and restore fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the watershed. In concert with our partners, the Ecoteam identifies fish and wildlife resource priorities in the watershed and implements collective actions to address those priorities.

Resource Priorities

- #1:** Recover populations and habitats of endangered and threatened species.
- #2:** Protect, enhance, and restore habitats for migratory birds, anadromous and catadromous fishes, and listed species or species of concern in the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin River basins.
- #3:** Protect, enhance, and restore coastal habitats for trust resources of concern.
- #4:** Protect, enhance, and restore populations of migratory bird species of special concern and their habitats.
- #5:** Rebuild American shad and river herring populations in coastal rivers, including the Merrimack, Saco, Kennebec, Androscoggin, Penobscot, and St. Croix River basins.
- #6:** Restore and rehabilitate Atlantic salmon populations in the St. Croix, Dennys, Pleasant, East Machias, Machias, Narraguagus, Ducktrap, Sheepscot, Penobscot, Saco, Union, Kennebec, and Merrimack Rivers, and tributaries to the St. John within the United States.
- #7:** Manage Service lands to protect, enhance, and restore habitats to maintain biodiversity.



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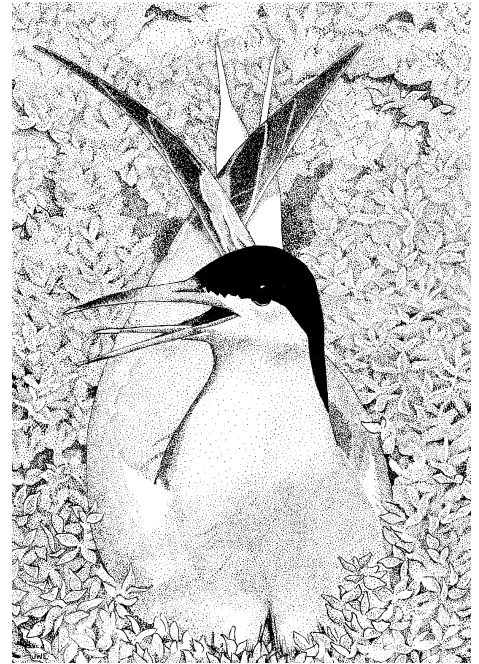
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FY2000 Priority Actions

- Northern forest initiative activities
- Identification of important habitat for trust species in the Gulf of Maine watershed with GIS mapping
- Habitat restoration
 - coastal wetlands
 - anadromous fish passage
 - seabird nesting islands
- Native American tribe projects

Gulf of Maine Rivers Ecoteam Members (name, office, phone)

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) protects and restores fish and wildlife resources and their habitats -- for the natural environment and for us. Nationwide, the Service manages over 500 National Wildlife Refuges, an outstanding network of lands dedicated to protecting wildlife. The Service also operates National Fish Hatcheries, raising and stocking about 200 million native fish annually. Through its Ecological Services program, the Service also safeguards endangered species, resolves fish and wildlife issues related to hydropower projects, curbs toxic contamination and restores and protects valuable fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands through partnerships. The Service also investigates cases and enforces federal wildlife laws. Through its Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration program, the Service directs millions of dollars annually to state fish and wildlife agencies for their use in protecting, managing and restoring species and their habitats, and providing conservation education. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other Service programs also provide matching funds to federal, state and private conservation organizations to protect and restore habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish and endangered species.

